

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 260230Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6117

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH UR

SUBJECT: PRC MEDIA ON SMALL NATION CHAUVINISM

SUMMARY: WITH THE CSCE ABOUT TO CONVENE IN HELSINKI, NCNA ON JULY 24 CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM A SIGNED PEOPLE'S DAILY (PD) ARTICLE WHICH WARNS THAT MOSCOW NEITHER RESPECTS NOR ACKNOWLEDGES RIGHTS OF SMALL OR MEDIUM-SIZED COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD IMPEDE ITS SCRAMBLE FOR HEGEMONY. THIS ADMONITION IS UNDOUBTEDLY ADDRESSED PRIMARILY TO THOSE ATTENDING THE CSCE BUT SEEMS NO LESS A WARNING TO ALL WHO WOULD LOOK TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR PROTECTION. END SUMMARY

1. WITH THE CSCE ABOUT TO OPEN IN HELSINKI, PRC MEDIA HAS ACCORDED PROMINENT TREATMENT TO A SIGNED PD ARTICLE WHICH REITERATES CHINA'S STANDARD WARNINGS TO SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED COUNTRIES TO BE WARY OF THE SOVIETS. NCNA EXCERPT OF THE JULY 24 PD ARTICLE WHICH REFUTES THE SOVIET REVISIONIST" FALLACY OF SMALL NATION CHAUVINISM"(REPLAYED IN BOTH OF HONG KONG'S PRC-OWNED NEWSPAPERS THE FOLLOWING DAY) TAKES ISSUE WITH
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A COMMENT IN THE JULY 18 ISSUE OF A SOVIET MAGAZINE "NEW

TIMES" WHICH ALLEGEDLY DISCUSSES THE NEED TO COMBAT THIS "IMPORTANT PROBLEM".

2. A MALTESE PROPOSAL AT THE CSCE PREPARATORY MEETING IN GENEVA SEEMS TO HAVE PROVIDED THE SETTING FOR BOTH THE ALLEGED SOVIET PRESS REPLY TO A READER'S QUERY, AND THE SUBSEQUENT PRC RETORT. ACCORDING TO THE NCNA REPORT, THE PD ARTICLE REFUTES MOSCOW'S LABELLING OF MALTA'S PROPOSAL FOR BOTH SUPERPOWERS TO REDUCE THEIR MILITARY FORCES IN EUROPE AS A "SELFISH PLAN" AND "UNPARDONABLE CRIME," AND BACKS THE PROPOSAL AS A REASONABLE, JUSTIFIED AND "PROPER ELEMENTARY RIGHT" OF EVERY COUNTRY SEEKING TO DEFEND ITS RIGHTS AND INTERESTS. (THIS IS THE THIRD NCNA MENTION OF THE MALTESE PROPOSAL SINCE JULY 14.)

3. HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE CONTENDS THAT THE SOVIETS LOOK UPON SMALL-SIZED COUNTRIES' OPEN CHALLENGE TO A SUPERPOWER AS AN EFFORT TO DEFY "LAWS HUMAN AND DIVINE," AND IN PARTICULAR AS AN ATTEMPT TO THWART THE SOVIET'S REVISIONISTS' SCRAMBLE FOR HEGEMONY IN THE MEDITERRANIAN AND SOUTHERN EUROPE. IT ARGUES THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDER SMALL

COUNTRIES AS HAVING NO RIGHTS AND "ONLY ONE OBLIGATION, NAMELY, TO MEEKLY FOLLOW THE DICTATES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND PERFORM ALL ITS BIDDING." MOREOVER, DISOBEDIENCE IS TO BE CHASTISED AS A MANIFESTATION OF SMALL-NATION CHAUVINISM. CITING PROBLEMS OF SWITZERLAND AND EGYPT WITH THE SOVIETS, THE AUTHOR ASSERTS THAT MOSCOW BULLIES AND BLACKMAILS SMALL COUNTRIES.

4. DRAWING FROM LENIN TO MAKE A DISTINCTLY TRADITIONAL CHINESE POINT, THE AUTHOR CITES THE COMMUNIST IDEOLOGUE'S STATEMENT THAT "IN POLITICS ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OFTEN SERVES AS A SCREEN FOR THE UTTER LACK OF PRINCIPLES AND STERILITY, IMPOTENCE, ANGRY IMPOTENCE, ON THE PART OF THOSE WHO USE SUCH LANGUAGE" AND THEN PREDICTABLY FORECASTS FAILURE FOR THOSE WHO RESORT TO SUCH TACTICS.

5. THIS DELAYED PRC RESPONSE TO A JULY 18 ARTICLE IN THE SOVIET MEDIA IS UNDOUBTEDLY LINKED TO THE OPENING OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CSCE AND ADDRESSED TO THOSE ABOUT TO SIT DOWN WITH THE SOVIETS. BUT THE CHINESE WARNING SEEMS NO LESS AN ADMONITION TO ALL--EUROPEAN, ARAB, ASIANS INCLUDED, WHO WOULD LOOK TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS AND INTERESTS.
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